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Soviet Union Supports Terror Network

Vindicating Reagan Administration charges of a major Soviet role in international terrorism, a former CIA director, two international journalists, and an American scholar have testified that the Soviet Union and its surrogates have trained, equipped and funded a vast network of terrorist organizations.

Speaking before the new Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, former CIA Director William Colby said the Soviets "have directly trained and supplied elements around the world engaged in what they euphemistically call wars of national liberation. They have employed their proxies and surrogates of Cubans, East Germans, Czechs and others to extend this direct effort aimed not only at the 'imperialism' of America and its allies but at a variety of less despotic states than their own, from Mexico to Uruguay to Colombia to North Yemen to Morocco to Puerto Rico. And they have provided training and logistics to a number of groups who use these in their own terrorist attacks.

"They have supported a heterogeneous group of terror-mongers from Libya's Qaddafi to Palestinian kidnappers of Arab oil leaders to Cuban trainers of Shaba invaders to Bulgarian assassins."

Journalist Claire Sterling, who considers herself a "moderate leftist" and whose book, *The Terror Network*, exposes the Russian role in international terrorism, told the subcommittee that a major Soviet terror assault is directed against the countries of the "strategic crescent"—Turkey, Italy, Spain, Northern Ireland and West Germany.

Michael Ledeen, a historian and editor of *The Washington Quarterly*, which is associated with the Georgetown Institute for Strategic Studies, testified that the facts are not open to question.

Said Ledeen: "The Russians train PLO terrorists in the Soviet Union, supervise the training of terrorists from all over the world in Czechoslovakia (or at least they did until recently, according to the testimony of a leading defector, Gen. Jan [....] and work hand in glove with

"The British press reports laconically that the killer of Lord Mountbatten got Soviet training in Libya; PLO leaders openly brag of their training in the Soviet Union; the first generation of Red Brigade leaders beat a regular path between Italy and Prague, long the headquarters of Soviet support for, and influence and control over, clandestine Communist operations in Italy."

Arnaud de Borchgrave, veteran foreign correspondent and co-author of *The Spike*, which is based on the testimony of defectors from Soviet-bloc intelligence, testified that "According to West European intelligence services, the basic decision to support international terrorist groups was taken at the Tri-Continental Conference in Havana in 1966." He said, "The objective of the strategy agreed upon at Havana was to undermine Western interests in the Third World and to destabilize Western societies while keeping Western governments and opinion-makers anesthetized with a policy of 'peaceful coexistence,' known in the West as detente." He said the implementation of the plan began in 1968.

In that same year, de Borchgrave testified, KGB chief Gen. Yuri Andropov elevated the disinformation department of the KGB to the status of an independent Directorate, known as "Directorate A," and with Boris Ponomarev, head of the International Department of the Soviet Communist party central committee, drew up a long-range plan of "active measures" to be taken against the West.

De Borchgrave said, "The methods for this new 'active measures' program approved by the Soviet Politburo in 1968 were to include: increased recruitment of agents of influence in Western countries; character assassination campaigns to discredit Western leaders; covertly sponsored strikes and demonstrations; the spreading of false information to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Europe, and between the industrial West and the Third World; the infiltration and manipulation of